

# GHOSTS AND HAUNTINGS

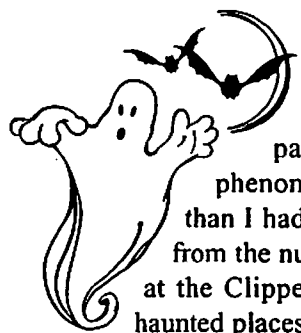
Duxbury Clipper

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## Historically Haunted in Duxbury

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When I first set out to write a series on historically haunted places in town, I was neither a believer nor a non-believer in the paranormal.



Surprisingly, I discovered a wealth of research on the topic of phantoms, poltergeists, and paranormal activity. Ghost phenomenon was more common than I had realized (a fact apparent from the number of calls we received at the Clipper office from our ad for haunted places.)

Even more interesting, however, was how closely my research on supernaturalism correlated to the stories of those who called me and the places I visited in Duxbury. I also experienced some unexplainable things as I went from one historically haunted house to another.

I visited a home on Washington Street where a ghost of a child who died there in 1806 haunts the place. When I arrived to photograph the spaces where this spirit is often felt, a strange thing hap-

pened to my digital camera. Every time I turned the camera on and went to take a photograph, the camera immediately turned off. I tried repeatedly to take the photo only to have the camera shut off. It was as if someone was playing games with me. After six or so tries, I finally got the shot.

My immediate response to the homeowner was that "the battery must be low." Yet it worked fine for the remainder of the interview, and when I returned to the Clipper office, I discovered from Amy, the office manager, she had installed a new battery pack just before my interview. I had used the camera many times before without any issues, except for one other time -- the day I went to photograph the tombstone of this same child who died in the house on Washington Street. It is the only other time the camera kept shutting off.

On another day, during a phone conversation with the homeowner of this residence, I was describing the tombstone of this baby ghost (I had recently found it in Mayflower Cemetery) when the phone cut off and we lost our power at the office. Everyone at the Clipper blamed the ghost of Erastus. We later found out a transformer had gone out on Soule Avenue. The following week, our next

ghost caller phoned in with her haunted house located just coincidentally on Soule Avenue!

I followed up on another story of a haunting at the Snug Harbor Post Office, and set a time to meet the postman there when my watch stopped during the call and I almost missed my interview. I lost the same watch a few weeks later after touring the house on Soule Avenue. I still wonder if it will turn up in their haunted attic!

During the same visit to Soule Avenue, I photographed a tiny carved skeleton head made of bone, which the owners had found on the ledge of a door during restorations. I placed the head on a black cloth and took a close up shot with my digital camera. When we downloaded the photos after my visit, I discovered the skeleton head had literally disappeared from my photo. I still cannot explain why there is no skeleton head in this photograph.

These experiences may be mere coincidences. But if you are a believer in the unbelievable or one who has experienced the supernatural, you may attribute them and the stories in this series as evidence of the existence of a paranormal world. Call it mere coincidence or supernaturalism? I'll leave the decision up to you.